

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
WELFARE SCHEME FOR ARTISANS
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the bamboo and cane products of the North-Eastern Region are in great demand in the international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy for the welfare of artisans from the economically weaker sections of the society by providing infrastructure and implements in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Khadi and Village Industries Sector in the country including the North Eastern Region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 350 FOR ANSWER ON 23.12.2008 REGARDING WELFARE SCHEME FOR ARTISANS

(a) & (b): Bamboo and cane products of North Eastern Region are popular in the country and abroad. Government of India has accorded Export Promotion Council (EPC) status to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organization set up under administrative control of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and so far 4 institutions in North Eastern Region have registered under KVIC-EPC for export of cane and bamboo products. As per information supplied by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), no formal assessment on demand for cane and bamboo products for North Eastern Region in international markets has been carried out. However, as per the data available with the Export Promotion Council for handicrafts, the products of cane and bamboo have potential for export.

(c) & (d): Welfare of artisans has been aimed at by providing better support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) Sector through provision of infrastructure and implements for such units throughout the country including those in North-Eastern Region. The Government through KVIC has been implementing schemes like Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY), Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certification (ISEC) scheme, Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) to develop around 100 traditional clusters from khadi, village industry and coir sectors. Assistance is also provided to khadi and village industry institutions/units by KVIC to participate in exhibitions at the national and sub-national levels to assist marketing of khadi products.

Besides, the Government in the Ministry of MSME through KVIC has introduced three new schemes w.e.f. 2008-09, namely

- (i) 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)' a Central Sector credit linked subsidy Scheme for setting up micro enterprises in rural and urban areas
- (ii) Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans for providing assistance for construction of workshed for khadi artisans for better work environment,
- (iii) Scheme for Enhancing Productivity & Competitiveness of Khadi Industries and Artisans to make khadi industry competitive with more market driven and profitable production. Another scheme, namely, Strengthening of Infrastructure of existing Weak Khadi Institutions and Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure for renovation of selected 30 khadi sales outlets and providing assistance for strengthening of infrastructure of existing 100 weak khadi institutions has also been approved.

Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under Ministry of Textiles also implements various schemes for development and promotion of handicrafts artisans including artisans belonging to weaker sections of the society, in the country including those in North Eastern Region such as Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Marketing Support Scheme, Human Resource Development Scheme, Design & Technology Upgradation scheme, Research and Development scheme and Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has also set up Bamboo & Cane Development Institute (BCDI) at Agartala to provide platform for human resource development and research to realise the potential for innovations that can hasten the

economic and social development of rural communities and individual craftsmen, particularly those in the North Eastern Region.